



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

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## **Fees for the Permitting of Temporary Food Establishments begin July 1, 2008**

Beginning July 1, 2008, Catawba County Public Health and other local health departments in North Carolina will begin to collect permit fees from vendors who are issued temporary food establishment (TFE) permits at fairs, festivals, carnivals, and similar gatherings. The fee will be \$50. Permits will be in effect for the length of the fair, festival or other event, up to 15 days. Previously, these vendors were required to obtain permits, but were charged no fee.

Due to a request from the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Health Services Section consulted with the Office of the North Carolina Attorney General regarding whether permit fees could be charged for TFEs. Permit fees have been required for restaurants and similar establishments under North Carolina General Statute 130A-248(d) since the early 1990s. The Attorney General's office determined that TFEs are subject to this fee, and the Environmental Health Services Section, in a memo dated April 27, 2008, directed all local health departments to begin collecting the fee as of July 1, 2008. The fee is not optional; all local health departments are required to collect it.

Organizations exempt from obtaining a TFE Permit (those that meet the requirements of North Carolina General Statute 130A-250(7), non-profit corporations and political committees that operate no more than two consecutive days in any month) will not be required to pay this fee.

A fee must be charged for each issuance of a permit. When a TFE is relocated or when the permit has expired, a new permit and fee is required. Permits are valid for 15 days of operation during the event for which it is issued.

Applications for temporary food stand permits and the fee must be submitted to the Catawba County Environmental Health Department one week before the permit is to be issued. The application and fee may be mailed or submitted in person at the Permit Centers in the Catawba County Government Center at 110-A Southwest Boulevard in Newton or Hickory City Hall at 76 North Center Street in Hickory. Inspectors issuing permits will not be able to collect permit fees in the field, due to Finance Department procedures and audit requirements.

Festival organizers are encouraged to coordinate the submission of applications and fees for vendors in order to ensure that the process proceeds smoothly. Catawba County Environmental Health representatives will work closely with organizers to facilitate the process. Applications for TFE permits may be obtained from the offices listed above, or on the Catawba County Environmental Health Division website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/tempfood.asp>.

If you have questions regarding the change, please contact Scott Carpenter at (828) 465-8258 or [scarpenter@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:scarpenter@catawbacountync.gov)

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